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Three students test positive for Covid-19 on the heels of the semester

Two students test positive for Covid-19, 17 quarantined

By JAMES FINN
Editor at Large

Two Middlebury students tested positive for Covid-19, according to early results from tests held Monday, the school announced in an email Tuesday morning.

The cases were the first among students at the college since two tested positive in early September during entry testing, and were the first two cases acquired in Middlebury rather than before arrival at the college. In total, the college has had four student cases to-date this semester.

"This news underscores the importance of strictly abiding by Middlebury's campus quarantine rules as well as Vermont Governor Phil Scott's order restricting social gatherings," Mark Peluso, Middlebury's head physician, said in the email.

Peluso said the two students had been moved to isolation. The school completed contract tracing this evening and moved 15 student contacts into quarantine, according to the Covid-19 dashboard. Two students were previously placed into quarantine after contacting someone off campus who tested positive, putting the total number of students in quarantine at 17.

Colleges around Vermont have

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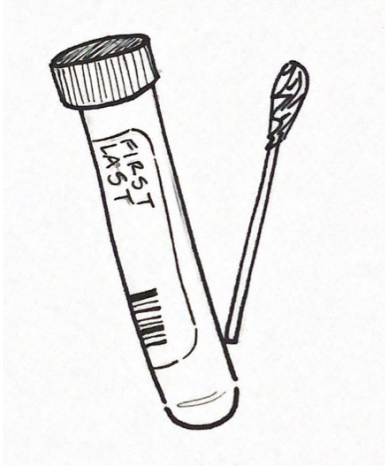
One positive on second day of exit testing

By BOCHU DING
Editor in Chief

One student tested positive for Covid-19 on the second day of exit testing, according to an email from Director of Health Services Mark Peluso. The school moved eleven students into quarantine after contract tracing, bringing the total number of quarantined students to 24.

The new cases were from the the



SARAH FAGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

batch of tests completed yesterday — the second day of exit testing — when the college conducted 1,130 tests.

The two cases reported yesterday and the new case today were the first instances of positive Covid-19 tests

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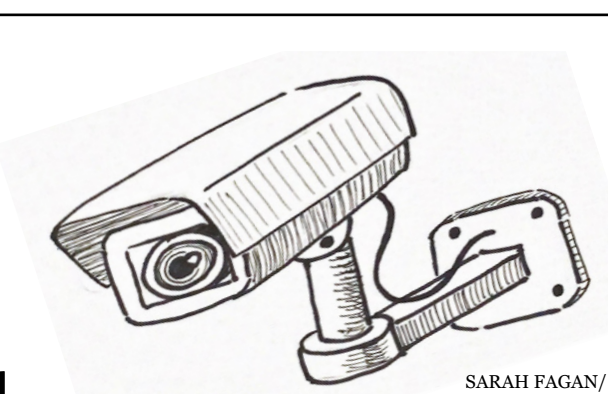
College installs eighteen security cameras at McCullough, Bicentennial Hall



SARAH FAGAN/ THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By ROYA TOURAN
Community Council Correspondent

Eighteen new security cameras have been installed around campus to update the college's security system following the approval from the 2019–20 Community Council.

After discussing concerns related to privacy and which groups the use of the camera footage disproportionately affects, the council came to an understanding that they would be placed outside of buildings rather than indoors to prioritize surveillance of external threats and not Middlebury students themselves.

"The hesitancy, and everyone on the council agreed, was that cameras disproportionately affect BIPOC students, so we didn't want the implementation of these cameras to serve as a way to unjustly punish BIPOC students on campus," Lezama said.

However, cameras have been installed both inside and outside of McCullough. Interim Director of Public Safety Dan Gaiotti, who is new to his role as Director of Public Safety this year, says he was not aware that the Community Council had come to this understanding.

Security cameras had been a priority for the Department of Public Safety for several years before the installment project officially began last December. The plan was first introduced to the Middlebury community in an email sent in September of 2019. The announcement framed the cameras as a safety improvement for the campus and as a response to concerns raised by the community.

"Cameras are standard practice at our peer schools and 90 percent of colleges and universities around the country. Public Safety's research drew attention to the importance of cameras for safety and security, Community Council endorsed their installation, and cameras are part of our efforts to adhere to best practices in campus safety," Gaiotti said.

The project was interrupted by the campus closure in mid-March

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Campus returns to modified Phase One as Vermont Covid-19 cases surge

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Contributing Writer

Students received an escalating series of emails informing them of an unexpected campus quarantine and new restrictions on social gatherings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of their penultimate week on campus.

With fewer than 24 hours of notice, students were confined to campus as of 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13. The Friday email mandated that students only have social gatherings with those they live with, a further restriction from the "four close contacts" rule implemented earlier in the semester. In-person classes, athletic practices, the athletic center, dining halls and libraries are allowed to continue operations. Students can also still eat distanced in dining halls together and study in classrooms or lounges.

Failure to comply with the new restrictions can lead to consequences including removal from campus for spring semester, according to the Nov. 13 email.

The college communicated some initial information about new gathering restrictions a few hours after Gov. Phil Scott issued an executive order limiting gatherings and recreational activities in response to rising cases across the state. The college's new gathering restrictions officially went into effect at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14.

The emails announced the cancellation of the in-person Feb Celebration planned for Nov. 21. An alternative impromptu event was eventually held on the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 14

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ARTS & CULTURE

RIDDIM World Dance Troupe Zooms in on Hip-hop, Kathak, Slavic folk dance and more

By RAIN JI
Senior Arts & Culture Editor

Audiences joined the RIDDIM dance crew for their fall end-of-semester show "RIDDIM World Dance Troupe Zooms In" on Saturday, Nov. 14. Some spectated from a tented stage set up behind Mahaney Arts Center while others admired at a distance, watching the performance projected live on McCullough lawn. The show was performed twice — once at 6 p.m. and again at 9 p.m. — as part of the "Light Up the Night" Fall Arts Fest series.

The show opened with a video of crew members trickling into a Zoom meeting, an ode to the way interactions on campus have changed this semester. In a brief introduction, members engaged in hilarious activities without realizing their microphones or videos were on, a frequent and relatable occurrence for many taking remote classes. After the audience had a good laugh at

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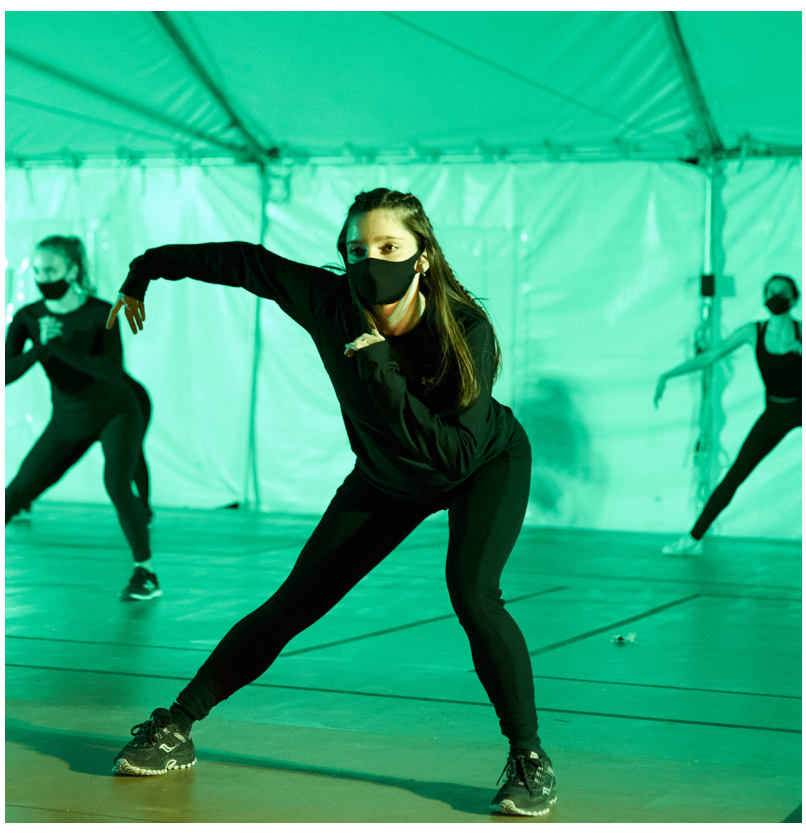

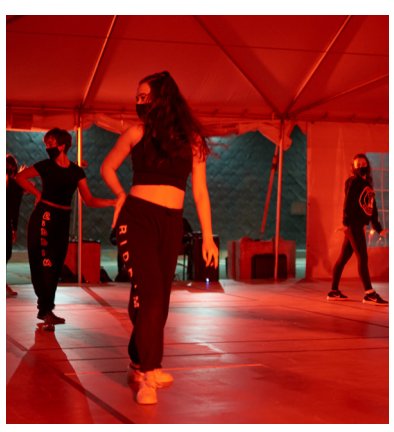

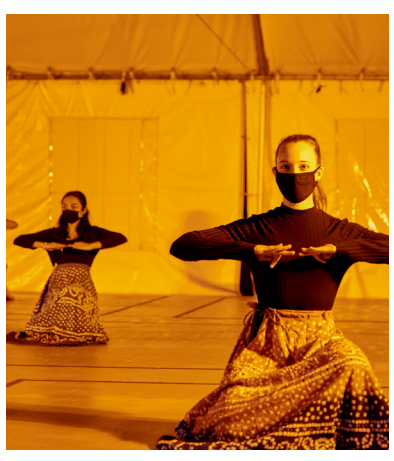

EMMANUEL TAMRAT/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

RIDDM World Dance Troupe performs from a tent behind Mahaney Arts Center, while audiences watch in person and from a live projection on McCullough lawn. "RIDDIM World Dance Troupe Zooms In" ran two shows on Saturday, Nov. 14.

How did Middlebury complete 10,000 Covid-19 tests this semester?

By TONY SJODIN
Senior News Writer

The college has completed over 11,200 Covid-19 tests — more than 9,500 student tests and 1,700 employee tests — over the course of the semester.

The number of tests completed each week has fluctuated, sometimes exceeding and sometimes falling short of the goal of 750 weekly tests, according to Middlebury's Covid-19 Reporting Dashboard.

The inconsistency resulted from differently-sized groups being identified for testing through the college's Targeted Dynamic Testing program. The fluctuations also resulted from varying numbers of students reporting possible Covid-19 symptoms each week and the number of retests performed due to insufficient samples taken previously, Director of Media Relations Sarah Ray said in an email to the Campus.

All students were tested twice during move-in and were tested again either in late September or early October. Faculty and staff working on campus were also tested throughout the fall semester.

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NEWS

Students, professors wait in anticipation as Inauguration Day inches closer
By ABIGAIL CHANG

Room and board costs to remain unchanged despite fewer on-campus weeks, remote J-term
By LILY JONES

Class of 2024 formed with higher acceptance rate, lower yield, greater racial and economic diversity
By ADIL ALVI

New mentorship program reaches out to remote first-years
By WILL ANDERSON

The insider's guide to moving out during a pandemic
By EMILY HOGAN

"Hostile Terrain 94": Middlebury spotlights the death of migrants crossing the border
By KATIE FUTTERMAN

LOCAL

Mara Strich '22 competes for Miss Vermont as Miss Otter Creek
By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES

Vermonters turn to home births and midwifery during the pandemic
By FLORENCE WU

Students gear up for the first remote winter term
By JULIA PEPPER

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By OWEN MASON-HILL

Reel Critic: "Objector"
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MASK OFF, MIDD: Asking for what you want
By MARIA KAOURIS

From farewells this fall to faring well this spring
By EDITORIAL BOARD

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By BLAISE SIEFER